Lab Reports in a Lab Composition Book

Components to be included in the lab book

1. Title and date

2. Purpose

 A statement as to the objective of the lab, what does one hope to gain from conducting this particular investigation? What are you looking for in the experiment?

3. Procedures

- A brief yet clear explanation as to how the experiment was carried out
- Identify all variables being investigated
- Sketches of apparatus should be included, computer produced diagrams are desired

4 Data

- Consists of only values measured directly with the apparatus
- Should be displayed in neat tables clearly labeled with appropriate units
- A separate chart should be created and clearly labeled "calculated data" for any calculated numbers which used the collected data in the calculations

4. Analysis

- This section includes all graphs which are clearly labeled
- Graphs should contain proper regressions indicating the relationship between the variables
- Graphs should be computer generated
- Accuracy of your results should be contained in the section
 - For graphs the root mean square error should be reported or another acceptable analysis statistic
 - If applicable percent error and or percent difference should be indicated (with sample calculations included)
- If applicable questions from the teacher should be answered in this section, the question and or paraphrasing of the question should precede the answer

5. Conclusion/Summary

- The purpose statement should be addressed/answered
- Relationships between variable should be clearly stated both a verbal description and mathematical model (equation)
- Discuss possible extensions of the experiment and or questions that the experiment has generated